

Impact of privatisation of BALCO on Labour

634. SHRI TAPAN KUMAR SEN: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to report titled "Impact of Privatisation on Labour: A study of BALCO Disinvestment" by V.V. Giri National Labour Institute;

(b) whether the study reveals numerous case of violations of shareholders agreement between Government and the strategic partner on labour related matters;

(c) if so, the action taken by Government on the violations; and

(d) if not, the synopsis of the report and Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI SIS RAM OLA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The author of the Report published by V.V. Giri National Labour Institute, had conducted survey of 280 out of 1302 workers who had opted for Voluntary Retirement Scheme (VRS) in Bharat Aluminium Company Limited (BALCO) between 2001 to 2003. Many of the workers interviewed by the author had alleged that they had to opt for VRS in view of pressurisation tactics and growing insecurities at the work place.

(c) and (d) A copy of the Report was sent to BALCO management with the advice that they should strictly adhere to the provisions of the SHA and send a report to the Government. BALCO, in their comments have denied the allegations and have mentioned that the Report is arbitrary and has been prepared without verifying the factual realities. However, since the allegations pertain to labour-related issues, the matter is being referred to the Ministry of Labour for further inquiry and report regarding allegation of violation. Further action will be taken only after receipt of the Report from the Ministry of Labour.

Safety measures in mines

635. SHRI MOINUL HASSAN: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) the allotment made for safety measures in mines of Tata Steel, GMDC, DVC, JSPL, ICML and RSMMS;

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(b) the number of mines under private sector and the number of accidents that took place during the last three years, mine-wise; and

(c) the status of safety measures in each mine?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES (DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY): (a) This data is not centrally maintained in the Ministry of Mines.

(b) As per information furnished by Directorate General of Mines Safety (DGMS) under Ministry of Labour & Employment the number of private mines is 4045 and the number of accidents reported during last three years is given below:

Year	Number of accidents
2004	47
2005 (provisional)	41
2006 (provisional)	47

(c) The Owner, Agent and Manager of each mine is required to comply with provisions of Mines Act, which is over seen by the officers of DGMS, and in case of non compliance, action as per law is taken against the mine's management.

Constitutional status to National Minority Commission

†636. SHRI AMIR-ALAM KHAN: Will the Minister of MINORITY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering to give constitutional status, to provide autonomy, to National minority Commission;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) by when the decision is expected to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF MINORITY AFFAIRS (SHRI A.R. ANTULAY): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. The Constitution (one hundred and third amendment) Bill, 2004, to confer constitutional status on the National Commission for Minorities was introduced in the Lok Sabha on December, 2004. The Bill was referred to the Standing Committee on Social Justice and Empowerment

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.